



Animal Feeding Operation Updates

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Certify before you Land Apply

Now's the time. Please check to see if your applicator certification is up-to-date. If you haven't taken your annual training for manure applicator certification, get it done before you start land applying.

There are three options to become certified:

- DNR offers [online training](#) and fee-paying. If you haven't used the system before, follow the prompts to create an Iowa ID.
- Catch a training session at an Iowa State University [Extension and Outreach](#) office. Please contact your local Extension office to schedule a session.
- Or, make an appointment at a [DNR field office](#) to take a test.

Find more information about state [requirements for manure application](#), including fact sheets for confinement sites and commercial applicators on DNR's webpages.

Top 3 Tips for Successful Fall Application

The long-term dry spell that started more than two years ago has left stream levels low and made fish and other aquatic critters like crayfish especially vulnerable to spills and even small amounts of pollutants.

"These three tips can help prevent spills and fish kills, and they'll also help keep applicators safe," says Trent Lambert, supervisor in the Mason City field office.

1. **SLOW DOWN!** Getting in a hurry has caused past spills and accidents. Don't try to speed things up and then accidentally miss the corner and land in the ditch.
2. **Be diligent.** Pay attention during pumping and land application, watching the equipment, weather and land. Stay away from saturated soils and be aware of the potential for runoff. Don't over apply. Walk or ride the umbilical line before and during pumping to ensure all of the couplings are and remain fastened. Don't leave running equipment unattended.
3. **Avoid water.** Keep umbilical hoses and application equipment away from bridges, creeks and tile intakes. Avoid surface application by injecting or incorporating. Stay away from sensitive areas and steep slopes. Follow required [separation distances](#) for your operation.

If the worst happens, call in a [spill report](#) as soon as you can to 515-725-8694. DNR staff are experienced in handling spills. They can likely help you keep a bad situation from becoming worse.

For more tips, see “[Avoid Spills and Fish Kills](#)—9 Tips for Successful Land Application.”

Delay application to Save Nutrients and \$\$\$

A dry fall and early harvest takes some of the pressure off emptying manure storage structures before winter. It's tempting to go, go, go.

But, wait. It pays to postpone land application until soil temperatures drop below 50 degrees. Cooler soils maximize nitrogen availability and minimize its loss--whether applying anhydrous ammonia or manure. That saves money.

If you are interested in the science behind 50 degrees and falling, check out pp. 3 and 4 of the October 2019 Iowa Manure Management Action Group's ([IMMAG](#)) [newsletter](#). Find [real-time soil temperatures](#) on Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's data map. At a 4-inch depth, soil temperatures are running in the low to mid 50s this week.